



FOURTH SESSION OF THE AMIS GLOBAL FOOD MARKET INFORMATION GROUP

ROME, FAO HEADQUARTERS (Green Room)

1-2 October 2013

AGENDA

Morning: 08:30-12:30

08.30 **Registration**

09.00 **1. Opening remarks** (Outgoing Chair)

09.15 **2. Opening remarks** (Incoming Chair)

09.30 **3. AMIS crops market situation and outlook in 2013/14**

Recent market developments and short-term outlook for Grains, Rice and Soybeans will be presented by the Secretariat. Participants are invited to comment on the Secretariat's assessments and to provide the latest information with regard to their country's situation.

10.30 **4. Structural change in agricultural futures markets?** (AMIS: IG/4 - 2013/2)

Over the last two years, the participation of index funds and hedge funds in agricultural markets has gradually declined, following an explosive growth period between 2004 and 2011. The presentation looks into the possible reasons for this decline by reviewing the current landscape of fundamental, technical and regulatory factors.

11.00 **Coffee break**

11.15 **5. AMIS progress report and programme of work** (AMIS: IG/4 - 2013/3)

The presentation will review progress from April 2013 to September 2013 and outline the Work Programme for 2013/14 with respect to:

- market information including supply & demand balances and indicators
- policy indicators
- capacity development projects
- research/analysis initiatives

11.45 **6. Country supply and demand balances: status and public dissemination**
(AMIS: IG/4 - 2013/4)

A presentation summarising the latest status of historical country supply and demand balances for AMIS crops submitted by the countries before their release to the public later this year.

12.00 **7. Status of the forecasting exercise**

A presentation summarising the experience (since July 2013) with receiving forecasts from the participating countries, highlighting the main issues/problems for discussion.

12.15 **8. Status of remote sensing and collaboration with GEOGLAM**

As a follow-up to the previous Session in April, the Secretariat will report on the status of collaboration with GEOGLAM with regards to the inclusion of remote sensing information in AMIS Market Monitor.

12.30 **Lunch break**

Afternoon: 14:00-17:30

14:00 9. Market and policy indicators

The Secretariat will present the latest status of the market indicators available on the AMIS website. It will also report on the progress made in compiling relevant policy indicators in the context of their dissemination on the AMIS website.

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 10. Open discussion on AMIS market monitor and the publication of "AMIS forecasts" in the monitor

Participants are invited to provide their feedback and suggestions for improving the Monitor. An important issue for discussion will be on the nature or meaning of AMIS forecasts for world supply and demand of AMIS crops, currently referred to as FAO-AMIS forecasts.

16:45 11. Open discussion on AMIS website

The AMIS website is the main gateway to AMIS and for this reason the Secretariat welcomes feedback and suggestions for improvements. One important issue for discussion is establishing links to AMIS on the participating countries' relevant websites with a view to promote its visibility.

17.30 Reception (Aventino Room, 8th Floor)

Morning: 09:00-12:30

09:00 12. Panel discussion on information sharing with leading Regional Information Systems

Several leading regional information systems, which provide information and analysis on food markets, are invited to provide an overview of their structure and activities. The discussions will also address potential for collaboration with AMIS. Confirmed participants:

- ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS).
- Sistema de Información de Mercados de Productos Agrícolas de Honduras (SIMPAH).

10:00 Coffee break

10:30 13. Research relevant to AMIS undertaken by participating countries and organizations

An opportunity will be provided for AMIS participating countries and international organizations participating in the Secretariat to present results of research they have undertaken that is relevant to the market and policy drivers work of the AMIS.

- A presentation by USDA on developing biofuel indicators for AMIS.
- The OECD secretariat will present the results of its work on monitoring agricultural policy developments in OECD member countries and seven emerging economies that was recently released.

11:30 14. Any other business

12:00 15. Chair's summary

12:30 Lunch break

Afternoon: 14:00-16:00

14:00 16. Workshop on new tools for data input into AMIS statistical database

The Secretariat has upgraded the AMIS Commodity Balance Sheet tool on the basis of the comments and feedback received from the focal points during the past year. The main effort was to make the tool more flexible to accommodate country-specific data management practices and to enable storage, visualization and updating of monthly forecasts for each commodity and member country.

The objective of the session is to present these developments, to familiarize the focal points with the tools and the new software features and to gather suggestions for further improving and refining the tools.

15:00 17. Bilateral discussions

This half day is devoted to bi-lateral discussions between the AMIS participating countries and the AMIS Secretariat on the activities of the Information Group and any outstanding issues. Follow-up questions about the policy database will be addressed during this session.

Appointments will be made the day before but countries are invited to notify the Secretariat in advance if possible.